

INFLOWMATION

Westford Water Department Newsletter

Water Commissioners:

- Robert J. Carter,
Chairperson
- Hugh C. Maguire,
Secretary
- Leslie A. Thomas,
Member
- Elizabeth Denly,
Alternate Member

Department Contacts:

- Warren Sweetser,
Superintendent
- Robert Worthley,
Water Treatment Manager
- Robin Fullford,
Business Manager
- Jessica Cajigas,
Environmental Compliance Manager

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Water Department Open House

Wednesday, May 6th, 5:30-7:30

The Westford Water Department and Commissioners cordially invite you to attend our Open House at 60 Forge Village Road on Wednesday, May 6th from 5:30 to 7:30pm to celebrate National Drinking Water Week. Below is a list of just some of the exciting things you can do during Open House. There is sure to be something for everyone. Refreshments will be served.

- Everyone's heard of "Energy Star," right? Well come learn about EPA's new "WaterSense Program" for water-efficient products like toilets, faucets, and showerheads and talk to a WaterSense-certified Irrigation Specialist and Installer.
- Receive free indoor and outdoor water conservation kits and get information on how to purchase rain barrels.
- Educate yourself on organic lawn care and landscaping and ask two organic landscaping companies how you can become "pesticide-free."
- See the design for the Day School Rain Garden project, meet the designers, and ask if a rain garden would benefit your property.



- Purchase composters and learn about all the ways to recycle from our friends at the Westford Recycling Commission.
- Receive an update on the ongoing perchlorate work and see photos from the recent installation of the waterline on Groton Road.
- Take a tour of our treatment facility which includes ultra violet treatment against microbial contamination and pressurized green sand filters.
- Bring the kids! They'll see different types of aquatic organisms found in our lakes and streams, receive stickers, coloring book, balloons (while supplies last).
- Private well owners, get your questions answered by staff from the Board of Health, a private analytical laboratory, as well as the Water Department.



The general public is invited. Hope to see you all on May 6th!!!

FREE Water Conservation Devices For Westford Residents!!

Garden Hose Nozzle



The water saving design of this Water Miser 6-position Garden Hose Nozzle allows setting the spray pattern independent of the flow rate. Stainless Steel nozzle with Spray adjustment knob. Rust-resistant, stainless steel latch. 6 precision spray patterns: mist, soaker, shower, jet, cone, and flat

Rain Gauge

Increments both in English and Metric units of measurements up to 2.0 inches. Measure rainfall and adjust lawn sprinkling accordingly



Water Conservation tips: Water your lawn only when necessary. Lawns only require 1 inch of water/week -- use a rain gauge to determine if your lawn needs additional water.

Leak Detection Dye Tablets



Detects leaks in toilets, darker color for fast and easy detection. 2 per pack. Drop tablet in the tank and wait a few minutes. If the dye appears in the tank, you have a leak

Water Saving Showerhead

9-Jet Turbo Massage is adjustable: gentle needle spray to forceful jet. Non-aerating spray means less temperature loss. Non-removable flow compensator. Installs easily by hand.



Kitchen Faucet Aerator



This unit has everything; the swivel action, both aerated jet and wide spray and both the full flow and the easy touch flow restrictor. IMPORTANT: turn off at faucet when finished with the water.

Pick up your free water conservation devices (while supplies last) at the Water Department Open House on May 6th! See page 1 for details!

RAIN GARDEN AT THE DAY SCHOOL

The Town of Westford is working with local company Stantec to design and construct a rain garden at the Day School. A rain garden uses soils, plants, and microbes to treat stormwater before it is discharged to a water body. The Day School rain garden will also be used for educational purposes by the Living Lab. Classes will be able to walk through the garden, learning about the native plant species it contains and why those plants were chosen. The garden will also provide habitat for butterflies and other insects for students to observe. Construction is planned for this spring.

The rain garden project is a volunteer project. We are looking to the residents and businesses of Westford for donations of the plant material in order to construct the garden. Below is a plant list including the species needed for the rain garden and adjacent areas. If you have any of the listed plant materials that you would like to contribute to the rain garden please contact Jessica Cajigas at the Water Department, 978-399-2457 or jcajigas@westfordma.gov or visit the rain garden table at the Open House on May 6th.

Perennials (any size is welcome, but 1 gallon containers or larger are especially appreciated)

Common Name

Lavendar Hyssop
Wild Columbine
Butterfly Milkweed
Smooth Blue Aster
New England Aster
Purple Coneflower
Dense Blazing Star
Wild Bergamot
Black-Eyed Susan

Scientific Name

Agastache foeniculum
Aquilegia canadensis
Asclepias tuberosa
Aster laevis
Aster novae-angliae
Echinacea purpurea
Liatris spicata
Monarda fistulosa
Rudbeckia sp.



Ornamental Grasses (any size is welcome, but 1 gallon containers or larger are especially appreciated)

Common Name

Wood Oats
Switch Grass

Little Bluestem
Prairie Dropseed

Scientific Name

Chasmanthium latifolium
Panicum virgatum (Hanse Herms, Heavy Metal and Shenandoah cultivars especially)
Schizachyrium scoparium
Sporobolus heterolepis

Trees and Shrubs (any size is welcome, but 2'-3' tall shrubs and 6' tall trees or larger are especially appreciated)

Common Name

Redbud
Redosier Dogwood
Mountain Witchalder
Inkberry
Common Winterberry
Dwarf White Pine

Scientific Name

Cercis canadensis
Cornus sericea
Fothergilla major
Ilex glabra
Ilex verticillata
Pinus strobus 'Nana'



InFLOWmation is published twice a year for all residents and businesses of Westford. Our goal is to keep you informed of events, our challenges and our accomplishments. We also strive to educate and encourage good stewardship of our water resources.

Flushing begins April 6th in areas of Westford Center, Forge Village, and Graniteville

Flushing is conducted between 8am & 3pm, Monday through Friday. There may be times when we will also flush at night between 10pm and 2am. During these times, water pressure may be low and the water discolored. Let the water run awhile and it should clear up quickly. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you but you should notice better water after the flushing program is completed. Thank you for your assistance!

Enter the 4th Grade Poster Contest!!

Entries are due to 4th grade teachers April 24th.

Theme: Water Conservation or Pollution Prevention

Size: 8 ½ X 11 inch plain white paper

Graphics: original artwork only – no computer generated pictures!

Color: Use colored pencils or markers

Other Information: On the back of your poster, list your school, your teacher's name, and your name so we know who created the winning posters!

Entries will be displayed and winners announced at our Open House on May 6 from 5:30-7:30pm at 60 Forge Village Road. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three posters from your school!

INFORMATION ON URANIUM

In March, the Boston Globe ran an article entitled, "*US to test local wells for traces of uranium.*" The article explained that the US Geological Survey and MassDEP are beginning a study of 1,600 private drinking water wells in Massachusetts to identify areas in the state where uranium may exist. Uranium is a naturally-occurring radioactive element that can be found in soil, rock, or water.

The article also stated that "more than 70 public water systems in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut have been found to exceed the EPA threshold for uranium consumption, which is 30 parts per billion." The Water Department would like to reassure its water takers that it is not one of those 70 public water systems and it has never exceeded standards for uranium or any radionuclide.

To confirm our historical radionuclide data, on March 10, 2009, the Water Department collected 4 samples from its water system for uranium analysis. Samples were collected from the raw water entering each treatment plant and from the treated water leaving each treatment plant. Uranium was not detected in any of the samples.

The Water Department would also like to clarify two other points: 1. All Town buildings and Schools are supplied by the Westford Water Department. The reference in the Globe article to a "Blanchard Memorial School" was regarding a school in Boxborough and not Westford's Blanchard Middle School. 2. Haystack Estates and Wyman's Beach (Summer Village) were the two public water supplies located in Westford identified in the article. MassDEP has confirmed that both water suppliers treat that water using ion exchange and the treated water does not contain uranium.

Westford residents that have private wells and that are concerned about uranium levels in their drinking water can have their water analyzed at a private laboratory. Laboratory costs are typically around \$75 and will require about 1 liter of water to complete the analysis. Please visit Nashoba Analytical's table at the Open House on May 6th, 5:30 to 7:30pm.

For more information on uranium in drinking water visit the following MassDEP and USGS websites:
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/standards/uranium.htm>
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/uranfs.htm>
<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2149>

Westford Water Department
INFORMATION April 2009
60 Forge Village Road
Westford, MA 01886

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Visit Our Website!
www.westfordma.gov/water



Postal Patron

Westford, MA 01886

Hours of Operation:

7am to 4pm Monday-Friday
(except Holidays)

How to Reach Us

Main Phone Line (978) 692-5529
Superintendent (978) 399-2454
Water Treatment Manager
(978) 399-2456
Business Manager (978) 399-2453
Environmental Compliance Manager
(978) 399-2457
Billing and Property Transfers
(978) 692-5529
Accounts Payable (978) 692-5529

After Hours

In the event of a water emergency outside of the work day, call the Police Department at 978-692-2161. The police dispatcher will contact our on-call personnel for quick response.

Westford's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 10am in the Abbot School Gymnasium and the following article pertaining to Water Department activities is to be acted upon:

Article 14: Develop New Well Source-Stepinski Parcel

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$75,000 or some other sum, from Water Enterprise Free Cash, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, to pay for the costs of a pump test and required permitting and any other related costs, to develop a new well source, to be constructed on that portion of the so-called Stepinski parcel in the care, custody and control of the Water Department identified as "Parcel A."

The Water Department would like to remind all residents that as an Enterprise Fund, the Water Department is fully supported by water revenues and does not affect the tax rate. For more on how the Water Department operates, please visit us during our Open House on May 6th, 5:30 to 7:30pm.



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